

C. 175. e. 11(6)

PROSPECTUS
OF
A NEW MISCELLANY,
TO BE ENTITLED
THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE;
OR,
BRITISH REGISTER:

CONTAINING
An impartial and comprehensive Record of OCCURRENCES, Foreign and Domestic;
and an Historical View of LITERATURE:
With ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS on Miscellaneous Subjects, Practical and Speculative.

PRICE ONE SHILLING:

THE declared opinion of many judicious and liberal persons respecting the defects of the most popular of the periodical Miscellanies of the present day, will, it is presumed, render it unnecessary to do more in order to engage the attention of the Public towards a new one, than simply to state the grounds upon which it may afford the expectation of a superiority in plan and execution.

The views with which the Publication here proposed is undertaken, may be divided into general and particular. The GENERAL purpose is to forward the progress of mental improvement upon the most liberal and unshackled plan. Its Conductors, enlisted in the support of no system of authority, which can inspire a jealousy of the spread of light and knowledge from any quarter whatsoever; and, as they hope, sufficiently emancipated in the habits of free enquiry to be emancipated from bigotry and prejudice, can venture to promise the impartial attention to the suggestions of others, and that fair and candid representation of the facts and opinions

nions coming under their notice, which are essential to the promotion of truth. If there be any party peculiarly devoted to the advancement of mankind in useful knowledge and the genuine principles of reason and liberty, to that party they profess to belong; as to all inferior designations, they disclaim them.

The particular objects intended to be pursued in this Work, will be understood from a sketch of its plan and distribution—This will primarily resolve itself into two parts, the *Corresponding or Miscellaneous*, and the *Periodical and Permanent* Departments. With respect to the first, such have been and will be the connexions established throughout the kingdom with persons distinguished for talents and information of every kind, that interesting communications may be expected on all topics of PRACTICAL and SPECULATIVE SCIENCE, of MORALS, PHILOSOPHY and CRITICISM, of COMMERCIAL, MECHANICAL, and AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT, of HISTORY and BIOGRAPHY, and, in short, of every subject calculated for discussion or explanation within the limits and in the mode appropriated to a Miscellany of this kind. It need scarcely be added, that this part will be open to the voluntary contributions of the liberal and ingenious of all classes and professions, though they may not have been expressly solicited for their favours.

Of the *permanent Department*, a copious division will be allotted to a *record of the times*, giving a detailed view of all political occurrences domestic and foreign, illustrated by authentic documents of every kind, parliamentary debates, bills public and private, interesting decisions in law, state-papers, treaties, &c.—Also of remarkable incidents and events, natural and civil, in all parts of the globe;—in short, of all the materials of genuine history. An interesting subdivision under this head, will be the *domestic history of Great Britain*, comprising all the minuter events throughout its several districts, such as registers of mortality and population, new projects and improvements, state of trade, manufactures, and agriculture, prices at markets, and the like; the whole compiled from provincial papers and other respectable sources with more care and attention than have hitherto ever been bestowed on those really important subjects.

The study of the ANTIQUITIES of this country, has by many of our cotemporaries been conducted in such a trivial manner as to throw ridicule upon what might be rendered truly respectable. We shall certainly not fill our pages with dull epitaphs upon persons never heard of in their lives, long lists of successors in petty offices civil and ecclesiastical, in short, with the infinite detail of things which acquire all their consequence from being the “tales of other times.” But we shall receive with pleasure, and insert with distinction, all notices of historical records, or remains of antiquity, which may afford an insight into the more important transactions, the manners, customs, and characters, of our ancestors. Letters of distinguished personages, and biographical and literary anecdotes of past ages, will always be highly valued by us, and our exertions will not be wanting to obtain them.

Another of the leading divisions will be a HISTORY OF LITERATURE, in which, without trenching upon the proper business of the professed literary journals, the object will be to give an historical view of every new and original fact or opinion offered to the world in the wide extended republic of letters; as diffused over all the civilized parts of Europe and America. Curious



or entertaining Extracts will be occasionally given from foreign and domestic publications, and, on the whole, this branch will be calculated to serve the purpose of an epitome of general literature, and to afford a taste and relish of whatever it yields most valuable and agreeable. A list of queries and *desiderata* will be occasionally added, to excite the spirit of research and inquiry towards neglected objects that may seem worthy of further notice.

It will be necessary to say something respecting *copper-plates*. The rapid advancement which the graphic arts have experienced during the present reign, has naturally, with a better judgment, given a more fastidious taste in ornamental engravings; and we believe that all the exertions of the monthly miscellanies to obtain credit and applause from this source, fail in their effect with all well-informed persons. We shall think the heavy expence incurred by this object much better bestowed in proper premiums for enriching the literary part of our Work by the labours of men of genius. We mean, therefore, to insert no plates but such as are merely *illustrative* of scientific or mechanical descriptions, or which contain maps, charts, or plans of real utility to the subjects treated of. And we coincide in the good sense of the public to justify us in this sacrifice of the eye to the understanding.

With respect to paper, print, and the other essentials to a reader's pleasure and comfort, we shall take care not to be behind-hand with the improvement and execution of the age; and we cheerfully commit our whole undertaking to the candid judgment of a public, rarely deciding wrong on the merit of what is offered to its patronage, or suffering what it has honoured with its approbation to sink for want of encouragement.

Communications, &c. are received by Mr. Johnson, Book-seller, St. Paul's Church-yard, London; and, as the first Number will be published on the First of March, immediate communications (post paid) will be esteemed a very particular favour by the Proprietor and Conductors.

LONDON, January 12, 1796.

Patric Home Esq. M. D.

Yours truly

Bedford Square

[Signature]

